AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims replaces all previous listings of claims in this application. Please add claim 23.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition comprising

   A) at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible polyelectrolyte complex comprising

      A1) at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer with cationogenic groups which comprises, in copolymerized form,
      a) of from 1 to 70% by weight, based on the total weight of the monomers used for the polymerization, vinylimidazole and/or a derivative thereof in at least partially uncharged form, and
      b) of from 30 to 99% by weight, based on the total weight of the monomers used for the polymerization, of at least one N-vinyllactam, ~~and at least one further monomer copolymerizable therewith~~wherein the copolymer A1 comprises no monomers with an anionogenic group and/or anionic group, and

      A2) at least one acid-group-containing polymer,

      and

   B) at least one cosmetically acceptable carrier.

2. (Original) A composition as claimed in claim 1, where the copolymer A1) comprises
   a) vinylimidazole and/or a derivative thereof, and
   b) at least one N-vinyllactam.

3. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 2, where the copolymer A1) additionally comprises, in copolymerized form, at least one nonionic water-soluble monomer c) which is different from, and copolymerizable with, components a) and b).

4. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 3, where monomer c) is chosen from N-vinylamides of saturated C_1-C_8-monocarboxylic acids, primary amides of α,β-ethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic acids and the N-alkyl and N,N-dialkyl derivatives thereof which, in addition to the carbonyl carbon atom of the amide group, have at most 8 further carbon atoms, esters of α,β-ethylenically unsaturated mono- and dicarboxylic acids with diols, amides of α,β-ethylenically unsaturated mono- and dicarboxylic acids with amino alcohols which have a primary or secondary amino group, polyether acrylates and mixtures thereof.

5. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 1, where the copolymer A1) comprises, in copolymerized form,
   a) vinylimidazole,
   b) N-vinylpyrrolidone,
   c) at least one nonionic water-soluble monomer which is chosen from N-vinylamides of saturated C_1-C_8-monocarboxylic acids and primary amides of α,β-ethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic acids and N-alkyl and N,N-dialkyl derivatives thereof which, in addition to the carbonyl carbon atom of the amide group, have at most 8 further carbon atoms,
   d) at least one monomer which is chosen from acid salts and quaternization products of vinylimidazole, dimethylaminopropylmethacrylamide and the acid salt and quaternization products of dimethylaminopropylmethacrylamide.

6. (Currently amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1, where the copolymer A1) comprises, in copolymerized form,
   a) ~~0.5 to 40%~~ 1 to 20% by weight of vinylimidazole and/or a derivative thereof,
   b) 20 to 99% by weight of at least one N-vinyllactam,
   c) 0 to 50% by weight of at least one nonionic water-soluble monomer which is different from, and copolymerizable with, components a) and b), and

d) 0 to 30% by weight of at least one monomer which is chosen from α,β-ethylenically unsaturated water-soluble compounds with cationogenic and/or cationic hydrophilic groups.

7. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 1, where the copolymer A1) comprises, in copolymerized form,

a) 1 to 20% by weight of vinylimidazole and/or a derivative thereof,

b) 20 to 80% by weight of at least one N-vinyllactam,

c) 5 to 50% by weight of at least one nonionic water-soluble monomer which is different from, and copolymerizable with, components a) and b), and

d) 0 to 30% by weight of at least one monomer which is chosen from α,β-ethylenically unsaturated water-soluble compounds with cationogenic and/or cationic hydrophilic groups.

8. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 1, where the copolymer A1) comprises, in copolymerized form,

a) 1 to 10% by weight of vinylimidazole and/or a derivative thereof,

b) 30 to 70% by weight of at least one N-vinyllactam,

c) 10 to 40% by weight of at least one nonionic water-soluble monomer which is different from, and copolymerizable with, components a) and b), and

d) 1 to 20% by weight of at least one monomer which is chosen from α,β-ethylenically unsaturated water-soluble compounds with cationogenic and/or cationic hydrophilic groups.

9. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 1, where component A2) comprises at least one acid-group-containing polymer which comprises, in copolymerized form, at least one monomer which contains a free-radically polymerizable, α,β-ethylenically unsaturated double bond and at least one anionogenic and/or anionic group per molecule.

10. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 1, where component A2) comprises at least one carboxylic-acid-group-containing polyurethane.

11. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1, where component B) is chosen from

    i) water,

    ii) water-miscible organic solvents, preferably C_2-C_4-alkanols, in particular ethanol

    iii) oils, fats, waxes,

    iv) esters of C_6-C_{30}-monocarboxylic acids with mono-, di- or trihydric alcohols which are different from iii),

    v) saturated acyclic and cyclic hydrocarbons,

    vi) fatty acids

    vii) fatty alcohols

    viii) propellant gases

    and mixtures thereof.

12. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1 comprising at least one additive different from components A) and B) which is chosen from cosmetically active ingredients, emulsifiers, surfactants, preservatives, perfume oils, thickeners, hair polymers, hair and skin conditioners, graft polymers, water-soluble or dispersible silicone-containing polymers, photoprotective agents, bleaches, gel formers, care agents, colorants, tinting agents, tanning agents, dyes, pigments, consistency-imparting agents, humectants, refatting agents, collagen, protein hydrolyzates, lipids, antioxidants, antifoams, antistats, emollients and softeners.

13. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1 in the form of a gel, foam, spray, mousse, ointment, cream, emulsion, suspension, lotion, milk or paste.

14. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 1 in the form of a spray, where the carboxylic-acid-group-containing polymer A2) comprises, in copolymerized form,

    i) 60 to 90% by weight of at least one compound of the formula I

(I)

in which

R^1 is hydrogen or C_1-C_8-alkyl,

Y^1 is O, NH or NR^3, and

R^2 and R^3, independently of one another, are C_1-C_{30}-alkyl or C_5-C_8-cycloalkyl, where the alkyl groups may be interrupted by up to four nonadjacent heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups which are chosen from O, S and NH,

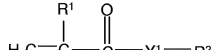
ii) 10 to 25% by weight of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid,

iii) 0 to 30% by weight of at least one monomer which is different from, and copolymerizable with, components i) and ii),

or where the carboxylic-acid-group-containing polymer A2) is a polyurethane.

15. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 1 in the form of a mousse, where the carboxylic-acid-group-containing polymer A2) comprises, in copolymerized form,

i) 45 to 85% by weight of at least one compound of the formula I



(I)

in which

R^1 is hydrogen or C_1-C_8-alkyl,

Y^1 is O, NH or NR^3, and

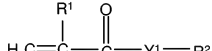
R^2 and R^3, independently of one another, are C_1-C_{30}-alkyl or C_5-C_8-cycloalkyl, where the alkyl groups may be interrupted by up to four nonadjacent heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups which are chosen from O, S and NH,

ii) 20 to 55% by weight of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid,

iii) 0 to 30% by weight of at least one monomer which is different from, and copolymerizable with, components i) and ii).

16. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 1 in the form of a gel, where the carboxylic-acid-group-containing polymer A2) comprises, in copolymerized form,

i) 45 to 85% by weight of at least one compound of the formula I



(I)

in which

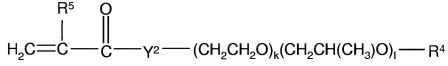
R^1 is hydrogen or C_1-C_8-alkyl,

Y^1 is O, NH or NR^3, and

R^2 and R^3, independently of one another, are C_1-C_{30}-alkyl or C_5-C_8-cycloalkyl, where the alkyl groups may be interrupted by up to four nonadjacent heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups which are chosen from O, S and NH,

ii) 20 to 60% by weight of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid,

iii) 5 to 50% by weight of at least one compound of the formula II



(II)

in which

the order of the alkylene oxide units is arbitrary,

k and l, independently of one another, are an integer from 0 to 1000, where the sum of k and l is at least 5,

R^4 is hydrogen or C_1-C_{30}-alkyl,

R^5 is hydrogen or C_1-C_8-alkyl,

Y^2 is O or NR^6, where R^6 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{30}-alkyl or C_5-C_8-cycloalkyl,

iv) 0 to 20% by weight of at least one monomer which is different from, and copolymerizable with, components i) to iii), and

v) 0.1 to 3% by weight of at least one crosslinking monomer with at least two ethylenically unsaturated, nonconjugated double bonds.

17. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 1 in the form of a gel, where the carboxylic-acid-group-containing polymer A2) comprises, in copolymerized form,

i) 90 to 99.9% by weight of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid,

ii) 0 to 9.9% by weight of at least one monomer which is different from, and copolymerizable with, component i),

iii) 0.1 to 3% by weight of at least one crosslinking monomer with at least two ethylenically unsaturated, nonconjugated double bonds.

18. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1, which additionally comprises at least one nonionic thickener.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of preparing the polyelectrolyte complex as claimed in claim 1 for skin-cleansing compositions, compositions for the care and protection of the skin, nailcare compositions, preparations for decorative cosmetics and hair-treatment compositions.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of preparing the polyelectrolyte as claimed in claim 19 for hair-treatment compositions as setting agents and/or as conditioners.

21. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 20, where the composition is in the form of a hair gel, shampoo, setting foam, hair tonic, hairspray or hair mousse.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of preparing the polyelectrolyte complex as claimed in claim 1 as or in (a) coating(s) for solid drug forms or other auxiliary in pharmacy, for modifying rheological properties, as surface-active compound, as or in (an) adhesive(s), and as or in (a) coating(s) for the textile, paper, printing and leather industry.

23. (New) A composition as claimed in claim 1, where the at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible polyelectrolyte complex has an excess of aniogenic/anionic groups.